

NEWS LETTER

Vol. VI, No. 2

June, 1988

333 S. 132nd St, Omaha, NE

Monsky - Flanagan Exhibit Planned by Boystown and NJHS for January

A very exciting happening is taking place as you read this story and this is one that you will enjoy, hopefully, wherever you live. The Nebraska Jewish Historical Society and Boy's Town "Father Flanagan's Home for Boys" are preparing a joint exhibit on "Flanagan and Monsky." The relationship between "Two men who cared". The two organizations are gathering pictures, stories—everything that can be located by research in many collections, newspapers, files, and from personal contacts about Father Flanagan, the man who founded Boys Town and Henry Monsky, world wide recognized Jewish leader from Omaha who supported the effort of



Father Flanagan & Henry Monsky congratulating new Boys Town graduates, 1940's



Members of the Boys Town/NJHS committee planning the Father Flanagan/Henry Monsky exhibit include from left sitting - Joan Flinspach, Barbara Lonnborg, Lois Friedman, Standing, Tom Lynch, Mary Fellman, Oliver Pollak and Ophira Bahar

his friend in opening a "Home for Boys". The plan is for this traveling exhibit to open at the beginning of 1989 at Boys Town, then move on to the Jewish Community Center and eventually throughout the country to other Jewish Community Centers, museums, etc. More details about all this as we make progress but just in case you have any pictures or stories of either or both Flanagan and Monsky in their joint effort we would appreciate hearing from you. This promises to be an exciting and wonderful exhibit and we look forward to working with Boys Town in preparing it.

Lines From Lois

Let me introduce myself, I am Lois Novitsky Friedman, your new President of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society. When Mary Fellman and Oliver Pollak organized the Society, I was asked to be a member of the Planning Committee and have served on the board as Treasurer and Dues Secretary for almost 6 years.

I was born in Omaha, Nebraska as were my parents H. Sol Novitsky, son of Samuel and Sophie Novitsky and Diana

Rosenblum and we both joined A.E. Phi Sorority.

In 1947 I married Lloyd Friedman, a native Omahan whose parents were Samuel Friedman, (born in Little Sioux, IA whose parents were Harry and Lucy Friedman,) and Goldye Kahn Friedman of Evansville, Indiana. Lloyd's grandfather came to Omaha in 1896 after his wife and little girl died, at that time, he purchased 8 cemetery lots in Temple Israel Cemetery. Lloyd's

port did they dock at - what ship, if you have that information - how did they come to Nebraska or Council Bluffs, Iowa? We want pictures from you - of your High School or Grade School; Hebrew School or Clubs; of your Sorority or Fraternity - of family outings. We want to know what organizations you belonged to and what active role did you play in them. Whatever artifacts we receive we in turn catalogue and cross-index them and then store them in acid proof boxes for research and posterity.

We want you to become a part of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society by writing to us and giving us your oral histories, events you recall, etc. We hope you will solicit new members for us by telling them all about us or sending them a gift membership. If you will send us names we will contact them through our giant address book.

I salute you all for being a part of this exciting organization. We appreciate your support and good will and we depend on you to help us grow.



Lois Friedman, NJHS President

Gross Novitsky Arkin, daughter of Leon Gross and Marcia Gross. My father's family came from Russia and my mother's from Romania and Austria. Several brothers and sisters on each side were raised in Omaha. My grandfather, Samuel Novitsky was President of the 18th & Chicago "Shul" when land was purchased to build the synagogue.

In 1935 our family moved to Sioux City, Iowa where my father became an order buyer for the John Harvey Commission Co. In Omaha he ran the Puritan Market on 42nd & Leavenworth St. and served as President of the United Food Stores. After moving to Sioux City I have always claimed dual citizenship with the State of Iowa. I attended the Un. of Illinois as did my sister, Gloria Novitsky

father, Samuel, who lived one month short of 102 years old, was confirmed from Temple Israel then located at 24th & Harney St. He was a graduate of the Un. of Nebraska in 1906, one of the first Jews to ever be graduated from the Un. Both of his sons Alvin, who now lives in Shawnee Mission, Kansas, and Lloyd, also graduated from the Un. of Nebraska at Lincoln and joined Z.B.T. Fraternity. Our son Scott and his wife Debbie Anon Friedman of Cheyenne, WY continued the pattern and graduated from UNL. They are the parents of two "gorgeous little girls", Jennifer and Angela.

You may well ask why am I telling you all of this and who cares?? We care! That is really what we are all about. We want to know about **you** - your parents, your grandparents - where they emigrated from - which

Introducing our new officers for 1988-89

President - Lois Friedman

Vice - President of Finances -

Leonard (Buddy) Goldstein

Vice - President of Membership -

Esther Canar

Secretary - Jerry Freeman

Treasurer - Rocky Stern

Dues Secretaries - Audrey Cohen and

Rita Novak

Museum Curator - Ducky Milder

assisted by Susie Singer

Program - Caryl and Bucky Greenberg

Tribute Cards - Dorothy Kaplan

Membership - Sheldon Kushner

Oral History - Shirley Berman, Louise

Abrahamson, Miriam Simon

Special Projects - Phyllis Bittner

Chairman Nominating Committee -

Sharon Cipperly

Ex-officio - Saranne Gitnick

Executive Director - Mary Fellman

Co-founder - Oliver Pollak

Honoring Our Mothers and Fathers for Service and Inspiration

The story about the 5th anniversary celebration as written by Miriam Weiner, nationally recognized genealogist, who was the guest speaker on October 12th when 120 persons over the age of 80 were honored for their service to the Jewish Community of Nebraska. Herewith is reprinted the story by Ms. Weiner which has appeared in a great number of Jewish weeklies across the country. We thought you would like to read and enjoy it! Additional columns by Ms. Weiner (pictured here) appear in Jewish weeklies and magazines on a regular basis, including occasionally in the Omaha Jewish Press.

It is commonplace to extol the virtues and accomplishments of people who are no longer among us or those contemporaries who have won prominence by virtue of their current contributions to Jewish life. What occurred recently in Omaha was rare and could be an inspiration for other communities.

At its fifth anniversary celebration, the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society (NJHS) honored 120 octogenarians (those over 80) for their service to the Jewish communities of Omaha, Lincoln and Council Bluffs. These men and women representing 10,000 years of Jewish service, were photographed and presented with a gift honoring their good deeds. The photos will ultimately be displayed in the "Corridor of Jewish History" at the Jewish Community Center.

According to Mary Fellman, founder and first president of the NJHS:

"You are the builders of these communities. You are the people who were the workers, the dreamers, the visionaries who helped create the Jewish communities in

which we live today... We are so proud of this opportunity to thank you for what you have accomplished and to promise you that we will continue to carry on in the generations to come that which your generation did."

When I was invited to Omaha to speak at this event, I knew it would not be like my other lectures. These people, many of them



immigrants themselves, had lived through some of the experiences about which I generally lecture. When I talked about the importance of preserving family records and identifying photos, they understood, nodded and smile. When I spoke of the importance of creating oral histories with the oldest family members, their children turned to them and they both nodded.

At one point in my Omaha lecture, I described the Landsmanshaftn societies that were such an integral part of the lives of many immigrants. I referred to the Sudilkov Sick Support Society, holding up one of their anniversary journals. This particular journal included a rendering of the synagogue in Sudilkov, a small shtetl southwest of Kiev. At that moment, one of the honorees, Jacob Wine, snapped to attention and said, "Did

she say Sudilkov?... I was born there!"

After the lecture, Mr. Wine came up to me and pointed to the picture of the shul. "See that basement door — I used to run in and out of there as a child!" he said. For the next few minutes, Mr. Wine and I became "Landsmen" as we discussed what was once Sudilkov. The synagogue, it turned out, was destroyed during the Holocaust and Sudilkov no longer exists, having been absorbed by neighboring Shepetovka.

During my presentation, I described the Galveston Plan whereby over 10,000 Jewish immigrants who settled in Omaha, people who were extensively interviewed and revealed a great deal of biographical information. One person in the audience was delighted to find her grandfather's name among those listed.

The mood of the evening was one of nostalgia, pride and love. For that brief time, problems were set aside, aches and pains forgotten and families shared in the "naches" from the recognition of their loved ones.

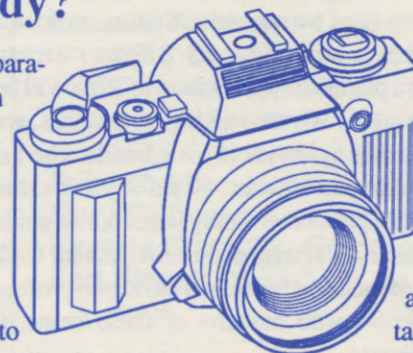
During the reception that followed the program, many people came up to me to discuss their "roots" and their resolve to conduct oral histories within their own family.

I couldn't help thinking about the good feelings generated within the community from this program. More importantly, in an age when we are so busy with our lives and often don't set aside time for our parents and grandparents, this event demonstrated a community that is aware of the good deeds of its senior citizens and takes pride in saying so!

It is my hope to be part of many such programs.

Youth Pictures Everybody?

The Youth Exhibit is in its final stages of preparation. Hundreds of wonderful pictures of Jewish youth of Nebraska have been loaned or given to the NJHS and are being prepared for exhibition by a committee headed by Moline Cassman. However, there is always time to add a few more pictures or certificates or documents relative to Youth organizations and activities so if you have any, all the way back to the late 1800's, please let us hear from you immediately, no matter



where you live. The exhibit, funded by a grant from the National Council of Jewish Women, will be hung permanently in the exhibition area of the Jewish Community Center. Remember that when you share with us you share with the entire community and for many years to come. Any of you who have visited the JCC and seen the exhibits that are now on the walls know that these are major talking points for visitors to Omaha and old-timers as well. Share your pictures with us!

Omaha to Host American Jewish Historical Society in 1990!

The American Jewish Historical Society, with about 3,500 members across the nation, will hold its 98th annual convention in Omaha in May, 1990, according to word received following the 96th convention held recently in Providence, R.I. The opportunity to host the national convention of the AJHS is a great honor for the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society, one of the youngest and yet one of the largest local history societies in the country. It is expected that delegates from an estimated 100 state and local historical and genealogical sections across the country will attend the Omaha meeting. More details about this exciting convention and hosting opportunity will be forthcoming in future issues of the Newsletter. Plan now to be in Omaha in May, 1990 to share this great experience with us.

For those who are not familiar with the American Jewish Historical Society, you should know that it maintains records and materials regarding the total spectrum of Jewish life from colonial days to the present and publishes facts and insights contained within those records. It also operates as an umbrella organization for local historical societies. Each year the AJHS holds a major conference consisting of teaching, learning, and study sessions devoted to aspects of American Jewish history. The museum and archive of the AJHS are in Waltham, MA on the campus of Brandeis University and are open to visitors so stop in the next time you are in that neighborhood. It's worth a trip to see their collections and exhibits!

We're sorry.....

Just when thought we had all of the identifications correct in the January, 1988 Newsletter, we find that we identified one of the EMESEL members wrong. It should have been Arlene Krasne instead of Thama Lee Krasne in the picture with Norma Seldin. Our apologies but it was a cute picture!

Drop in and Visit

The "Corridor of Jewish History" Museum is open during the same hours the Jewish Community Center is open. Come over with your family and friends to see our latest exhibit and spend some time seeing other exhibits in the exhibit hall as you walk toward the athletic area of the JCC.

Presidents, past, immediate past and present!



Shown here are three women who have and are leading the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society into great successes. First president and co-founder, Mary Fellman, right, has also served as president of the Jewish Fed-

eration of Omaha and recently received the Jefferson Award from television station KETV for Community Leadership. In the center is the immediate past president Saranne Gitnick who now serves as the president of the Jewish Federation of Omaha and has served as president of the Jewish Community Center. And our present leader, Lois Friedman, to the left, recently received the ethnic category "Volunteer of the Year" award from the United Way, and was specially honored for 40 years of service by the National Council of Jewish women which she also served as president. We're proud of our leaders — we're proud of our presidents, past, immediate past and present. May they go from strength to strength and the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society with them!

The other good news to come out of the 1988 convention is that Oliver Pollack, co-founder of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society, was elected to the American Jewish Historical Society's Academic Council. He is the first member of the NJHS to sit on any of the national committees. Pollak and his wife, Karen, were the delegates to the convention at which they presented the invitation for the 1990 convention to be held in Omaha. Pollak, a local attorney, is also professor of history at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and a contributor to the "Memoirs of the Jewish Midwest" journal of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society.

Watch for the Fall Opening of the "Brandeis Exhibit" in the JCC Gallery

Doctors, Lawyers, Merchants, Chiefs.....

This time we are concentrating on doctors and lawyers only although we welcome any pictures or stories you have about merchants and chiefs of whatever they headed. Our exhibit planned for the winter of 1988 will be on Jewish doctors and lawyers throughout the entire state. We are looking for pictures, articles, memorabilia and artifacts you may have of a doctor or lawyer in your family who has passed away or any living men or women in those two professions. Hopefully this exhibit in the "Corridor of Jewish History" will tie in with a paper now being written by a student at the University of Nebraska at Omaha on the history of Jewish doctors in Omaha. Call us, write to us or bring in any pictures, etc. you have of men and women in those two professions. Incidentally, pass the word on to anyone you know who has any of these items, including awards, documents and medals or certificates.

Sharing some thoughts...

Recently I heard someone describe what a difficult time the family of a deceased person was having in determining what pictures and papers should be kept and which given away or destroyed. I went home determined that I would start going through my own vast accumulation of pictures, articles, letters, in dozens of boxes and bags. What has happened is that I have separated and prepared for cataloguing dozens of articles and pictures of the family on all sides of both sides! The job is not done and if I am blessed with enough years to finish what I am presently doing, there will be no need for others to determine what to keep and what to toss. I pass this on as a thought for several reasons. How much better for each of us to determine what is to be saved and to identify all the pictures of family members. Also how much better to determine what to give the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society (which I have loaded up with a variety of valuable items and pictures) and what to toss in the wastebasket. My instructions to my family are not to throw out anything they do not want, but to pass it all on to the NJHS and let them determine what is to be kept and what is to be tossed. Would you believe that I found pictures of my great grandparents I forgot we had and have had copies made for all the grandchildren in the family along with other family pictures which will help us develop our family trees. It has been great fun and very emotional — certainly an opportunity to recall the past and many of those who brought such richness to our family life. I strongly recommend it for all of you. A final thought — think about the NJHS when the time comes to organize your own family papers, and think about the NJHS when you are doing the same for someone in the family who has passed away. There's history in them that papers!

Mary Fellman, *Executive Director*
Nebraska Jewish Historical Society

Acquisitions: Dec. 1987 - present

- Ann Margolin:** Copies of translated letters from Russia, 1913, 1914; Two photos of F & F factory personnel 1931, Camp Gan Aden Brochure.
- Lucille Epstein:** Family photographs, Omaha Hebrew Camps Badge
- Dr. Milton Margolin/Lou Cutler:** Framed newspaper photo of six old synagogues in Omaha.
- Annette Fettman:** Badge worn at Washington D.C. March for Soviet Jewry
- Paul Goldstein:** copies of two Ivre club conventions; Testimonial Dinner J.C.C. 1936
- Judge Donald and Gertrude Brodkey:** Photos and clippings related to their life and work.
- Rachel Rosenberg:** Copy of front page "Der Allgemeiner" Journal 10.11.74
- Phylliss and Irvin Sherman:** Letter sent to Leo Waxenberg thanking him for generous donation to Beth-El building fund.
- Janet Berek:** Beth-El congregational dinner program honoring Rabbi and Mrs. David Goldstein.
- Doris Kwiatek:** Passport and naturalization paper of Anna Bernstein Belzer.
- Dorothy Kooper:** 8X10 Blotcky family picture.
- Barbara Frohman:** 8X10 photo "Red Stockings".
- Paul Nathan:** 5X7 8th grade photo.
- Celia Grossman:** Picture of daughter Shirley Caldwell: Nathan Grossman award donor at Un. of Idaho
- Ann Belmont:** BBYW 1948 charter.
- Kaye Turner:** Memorabilia from youth camps and youth groups 1955-56; family photos.
- Iz Bogdanoff:** (Paul Bogdanoff) photograph of Neb. Deep Rocks of Omaha (basketball); photo of Sam Giller.
- Jo and Lilly Boin:** Biographical essays.
- Betty Mellen:** Louis Stine BBG Lincoln, scrapbook 1964.
- C. Klein:** Ten pictures of Libby Sacks from playhouse.
- Frieda Krizelman:** BB Annual Yearbooks: 1954, 1957-59.
- Estelle and Ralph Turkel:** 1933, 1945 Central High O-books, various newspaper clippings.
- LaBrina Liberman (Cissy):** Nathan Steinberg family photographs(2)
- Rocky Stern:** Conservative Capers 1936 pamphlet, sponsored by Beth-El Synagogue Auxiliary.
- Barbara Rips:** 8X10 social group photo.
- Gloria Friedman:** Assorted family photos.
- Bennett Fishbain:** United Orthodox congregations Bylaws 1940; 1928 Constitution and Bylaws: Omaha Hebrew club, Hebrew Calendar 1938-39.
- Michael Hirschfeld:** Copy of Northwestern Hotel Photo in Omaha 1920's (owned by his family).
- Reba Kuklin:** Lincoln Hadassah Certificates Ledger 1974-87
- Mary Fellman:** Federation and Jewish organization memorabilia
- Beverly Franklin:** Cornhusker B. B. Women Scrapbook
- Earl Siegal:** 1953-54 B'nai B'rith Henry Monsky Lodge #354 Activity Book

In honor of the 40th Anniversary of the State of Israel, the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society presents an exhibit in the "Corridor of Jewish History" mini-museum made possible by the Morris C. Fellman fund.

1948 Omaha High School Graduates Who Will Be Honored at Baccalaureate Services

Benson High School
Gerald Roitstein

Central High School
Harley Beber
Patty Belman
Alan I. Blotcky
Judith Borden
Joyce Brookstein
Patricia Elan Burkenroad
Alvin George Burstein
Leonard Bernard Bush
Phyllis Jean Chudacoff
Jack B. Cohen
Geraldine Ann Cohn
Shirley May Colnic
Harvey Lee Cooper
Stanley Diamond
Emanuel Drevich
Fern Anne Eisenstatt
Barbara Estrada
Martin M. Faier

Chaim B. Farber
Myrna J. Ferer
Richard H. Fertil
Frances Adelle Fisher
Alfred L. Fox
Eleanore Fredkin
H. Lee Gendler
Jerry M. Gitnick
Janice L. Gilinsky
Harriet S. Goldenberg
Thelma Goldstein
Edwin Gorelick
Audrey Greenberg
Bayla Mae Grodinsky
Justin Horwich
Lewis B. Izenstat
Darlene Kanner
Helen Frances Kaplan
Jean Kaplan
Beverly M. Kestermeier
Marvin S. Kohll
Arlen J. Kuklin

Michael Kulakofsky
Jordan Lagman
Bernard Lashinsky
Leonard Lefitz
Martin J. Lehr
Jean Marie Levenson
Joanne Levey
Millard F. Margolin
Elaine Mendelson
Renee Micklin
Constance B. Milder
Charles H. Morgenthau
Alan Stuart Newman
Marvin J. Newman
Peggy Ann Nogg
Doris Noodell
Bernard L. Osheroff
Dorothy Parilman
Robert Lee Pitlor
Elaine C. Ravitz
Sandra Raznick
Ronna R. Rimmerman

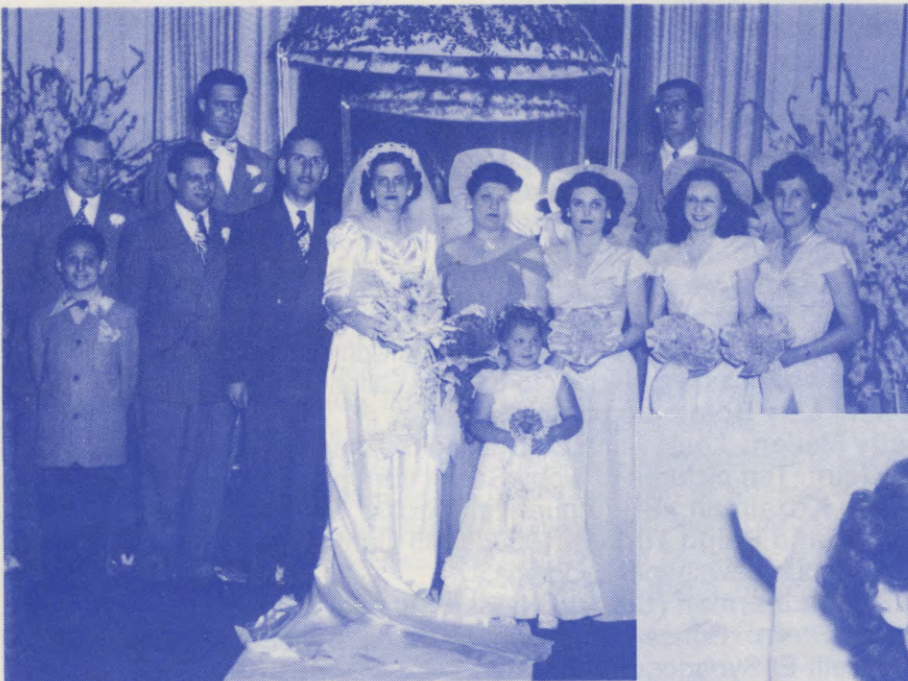
Roberta J. Rosen
Jerry Rosinsky
Norman Eugene Ruback
Robert A. Rubenstein
Molline Rubin
Paul W. Saltzman
R. Neal Schneiderman
Sandra Jean Solomon
Jeanne Ann Stern
Sam Robert Turitz
Jerome D. Wasserman

North High School
Allen Kahn
Melvin Perelman
Stanford Yossem

Technical High School
Howard Cherniss
David Cooper
Ben Tobias
Jeff Weil



Harold Mozer, graduated U. of Nebraska, June, 1948



Dorothy and Marvin Kaplan, married June 20, 1948

Mrs. Leonard Lewis (Bert) with son Stephen, born Aug. 7, 1948



Visit our "Corridor of Jewish History" Exhibit

The Jewish Press

Omaha, Nebraska, Wednesday, December 29, 1948

Vol. XXVI - No. 16

1948 Headlines

Rabbi H. Grodzinsky Dies at 90 ● S.A.M. Opens New House at U. of N. ● Harry Trustin Heads 1948 Philanthropies
Community Invited to Open House at New Dr. Philip Sher Home for Aged
Johnny Rosenblatt Candidate for City Council Seat ● Women's Division Headed by Mrs. Henry Newman
Morton Richards, Lou Somberg Head Men's Division ● Needlework Guild Drive Headed by Mrs. Albert B. Newman
Center Symphony Orchestra Begins Rehearsal Under Myron A. Cohen
Mrs. Harry Kulakofsky President of Hadassah Region ● 500 Attend Jewish Youth Council Stage Nite
Mrs. Leo Nogg and Mrs. Louis Lipp Chair NCJW Dinner Dance
Mrs. Ernest Nogg and Mrs. Hubert Sommer Co-Chair Community Chest Federation Drive
Conservative Jewish Youth Organize Regional USY ● Community Leader William Holzman Dies at 75
Morris Burstein and Sam Epstein Killed in Auto Accident ● \$1,000,000 Local Goal for UJA
Omaha Federation Sends \$150,000 to Israel ● Paul Blotcky elected Temple Israel president
AZA Cornbelt Region meets in Omaha ● Eleanor Passer marries Stanley Slosburg
Joan Robinson weds Norman Rips ● Samuel Steinberg named Beth El prexy
Hymie Ferer chairs groundbreaking of Beth Israel. Meilach Katzman chairs groundbreaking donor dinner
Public memorial service for Lt. Harlan Milder killed in Phillippines
Dr. Gershon Gelbert director Bureau of Jewish Education ● Groundbreaking Beth Israel Sept. 12
Formal dedication Dr. Philip Sher Home September 19



Sher Home Group going to Shrine Circus, April 5, 1948

at the JCC on "Jewish Life in Nebraska - 1948"

From Our Mailbag...

My mother, Ethel Ackerman Hirschfeld, born and raised in Omaha thought that you might like this picture of her father, Harry Ackerman for your publication which I receive.

Harry Ackerman was the owner of the Northwestern Hotel. He passed away in July of 1930. I would guess that the photo was taken in the mid-1920's.

Harry's other children included Fran Ackerman Kehlmann presently of St. Louis, MO; Ann Ackerman Levey of Los Angeles and Warren Ackerman of Los Angeles. Ethel Ackerman Hirschfeld resides also in Los Angeles.

I believe that there is a picture of the Wintroub family in the Jewish Community building in Omaha. Harry Ackerman was married to the late Esther Wintroub Ackerman.

I am a genealogist by avocation and the Assistant Director of the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles by profession.

I enjoy your newsletter and am happy to share this photo with you on behalf of my mother. ...Michael Hirshfeld



I have been gathering data on the Jewish soldiers who served and died during the American Civil War in 1861-65. I have reason to believe that approximately 400 Jewish soldiers, Union and Confederate, lost their lives during that conflict, killed in action, fatally wounded, died of disease or other causes. I have collected data on about 300 soldiers but not complete, to wit, name, unit served in, place, date and cause of death and place of burial or final interment. The completed data will provide very important historical information on the Jewish soldiers who fought and died in the Civil War. Do you have any information in your archives which can be forwarded to confirm or expand my research? Perhaps there are members of your organization or community who have family members who lost their lives in that war and could provide data assistance. Melvin A. Young, P.O. Box 11207, 425 High St., Chattanooga, TN 37401

Let me say that I have some material and information that I think would be of interest to your society's archivist. Some of what I send may be photocopies, as I will be giving my own family the option to retain any originals that they desire to keep.

I will also endeavor to obtain for the Society a number of much older materials from my aunt, Esther Marow, who is now about 1916, and has some very interesting pictures of the Omaha families and people of that era.

Rosalyn joins me in sending best regards.

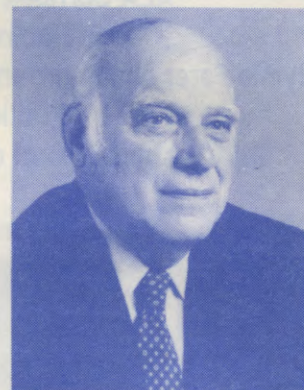
Harvey R. Leon
Sacramento, CA

RE: Your request on early Nebraska Jewish politicians, I report on my uncle, Edward Simon, a member of the Nebraska Legislature in 1913. According to our friend Harry Levinson of Lincoln, NE the State Library Blue Book (in the Capitol Bldg, Lincoln) for 1915, page 455 shows Edward Simon's picture and also states that he was elected in 1913. "Session Laws 1913" shows that Edward Simon introduced a bill about Workman's Compensation. Said bill never got out of committee. My father, Louis Simon, used to say that Edward Simon was responsible for Workman's Compensation in Nebraska, but I have no proof of that beyond the above. Edward was a prominent member of the Omaha community, a member of the Nebraska Bar and died early in life in the 1920's of a strep throat. I knew him as a little kid and he was one of the principal reasons why I became a lawyer. He is buried in the Simon plot at Fisher Farm.

Bud (Lawrence) Simon,
Piedmont, California

Rosenbaum authors "When the Doctor Becomes the Patient"

One of the newest books on the "best reading" lists is titled "A Taste of My Own Medicine: When the Doctor become the Patient" which was written by former Omaha Edward E. Rosenbaum, M.D. in Portland, Oregon for more than 40 years. For those who know Ed from the early years in Omaha they will remember that he was a student at Central High School, the son of Sam and Bess Mittleman Rosenbaum who owned a service station where Ed and his mother helped out at the gas pump. Ed's record includes graduation from medical school, training at the Mayo clinic, decoration during World War II for his pioneering use of penicillin for wounded patients on the battlefield, founder and chief of the rheumatology clinic at Oregon Health Sciences University as well as a clinical professor at the University.



All this preceded 1985 when Ed was diagnosed as having cancer and became the patient instead of the doctor in charge. He kept a record of what happened to him, what it meant, and how he reacted and he put down his feelings about being "on the other side of the bed" in a book that intertwines with his own family history and growing up experiences in Omaha. According to Norman Cousins "this is a courageous book that describes the world of medical science but doesn't hesitate to talk about large areas of uncertainty and fallibility in the practice of medicine." For Omahans it will also be a trip down memory lane in a warm and sensitive manner. The book is available through Random House and at your favorite bookstore.

Carl Rosenberg writes about arrival in Omaha

for recent Morris C. Fellman essay contest.

I, Carl Rosenberg, arrived in Omaha, Nebraska in the middle of October, 1949. Omaha, Nebraska was the second settlement in my life and that of my family—a new country, a land of freedom after living through the horrible time under the regime of the Nazi.

After the Holocaust I have been looking for a land in which I could raise my family - a land of freedom and peace. On our arrival to the City of Omaha the delegated person from the Center to meet us was Mrs. Sadie Newman. Mrs. Newman was the first American citizen we met. She met us

with open arms, a warm, warm smile and a beautiful Jewish welcome. She met us at the Union Pacific Depot. She took my family, wife, son and sister-in-law Bluma Boyman and myself to lunch at the restaurant at the Depot. We were overwhelmed at the luncheon served us. I asked her if Americans ate this fancy food every-

day and she laughed and said that you too will eat this way as soon as you are settled in your home. She told us that we are a free people in this country - no more slavery - we are protected by a great written biblical Constitution of the United States of America - the Bill of Rights. This I understood. Our children and grand-children will live in a country protected by our Government.

At that time the Jewish Community Center was under the direction of our loving director Paul Veret. With his warm and compassionate heart he guided us with fatherly love and concern as he understood what we had lived through. We were helped to stand on our own two feet by the Center and the people involved with all their hearts and conscious. We appreciate so very much that the Jewish community as a whole did stand by us in our time of need. Our

thanks to all for their good will, understanding and compassion. I so deeply appreciate the warm welcome from the Omaha Jewish citizens donating their time and support to us as newcomers. To us as survivors, the whole world being against us and the destruction of our people, we needed this kindness from another human being, Jew or non-Jews. There was still a world of generous loving people, sharing the richness and freedom of the United States of America. The helping hands extended to us at that time has instilled in us to this day to continue helping those in need. I



have explained many, many times to my children, I chose to live in this beautiful country - they however did not have the same opportunity - they were born here!

From the first week upon arriving in Omaha, I became a member of the Labor Zionist, Branch 54. I was a Vice-President to the end of the closing of the Farband. The leader from our branch at that time was Joe Radinowski who was a most friendly, warm and brotherly human being. He was of the first people to greet us with Shalom! His life was dedicated in human love for equal rights for every human being. He loved everyone and everyone loved him.

The picture I am enclosing is a true picture of our past history of life. The picture was taken after the liberation between 1945 and 1946 at Landsburg am Lech, Bavaria, Germany. It was taken

at the DP camp which was our quarters living under the U.N.R.A. I am the third from the right - 29 years of age from 105 pounds at liberation to 130 pounds. I was born and raised a Zionist. With my strong heart, mind and love for Jewish people, I fought with dignity at the time of the struggle with the Nazi. I helped hundreds of Jewish victims at the slave camp to survive. This was my aim - to help others survive. The picture is of the group who were training for underground work. Ninety per cent of the group went to Israel, trained to be Army leaders at the time when Israel was fighting for independence. We sent people and tons of ammunition for the future Israeli Army. In actuality it was illegal to do this and at the end we had to close and the people went to Israel to fight for our country. We became a free nation under our own laws. No more Holocaust as long as we have the State of Israel.

On this occasion on historical ground, I feel this is a proper document proving ourselves to be able to come back and live as human beings in the community of Omaha - from slavery to dignity. I want to share my appreciation to Omaha and the Jewish Community Center which at that time was located at 20th & Dodge. In the beginning we did not have another home, only the Jewish Community Center was the torch of light to us. Each individual was helped from this structure built by Omaha immigrants who came before us who had laid a good foundation for future immigrants of all walks of life - Jews and non-Jews. I also remember the Governor of Nebraska, Gov. Peterson, in his kindness, came to greet us individually with a warm welcome to the State of Nebraska with Mr. Paul Veret the translator.

Remembrance of Harry Rubenstein.....

As written by his daughter Jean Rubenstein Wallace following his death in August, 1987 after residing in Omaha for 95 years. We reprint this story with respect and admiration for a man who added color and distinction to the Omaha Jewish community.

"Before 1987 ends, let's commemorate an Omaha Citizen who left our ranks in August. He was Harry Rubenstein, the eighth living child of Fannie and Aaron Rubenstein, born at home on North 18th Street in 1892.

It isn't easy to imagine life of the times that horses and buggies traveled muddy Omaha streets, or when Child Labor Laws didn't exist and children were permitted to quit school after fourth grade and earn pennies (they had value then) by selling pigeons and rabbits. There weren't special classes for a high energy boy (now called hyperactive) who was left to his four older sisters to educate, then later night school.

The son of the hardworking owner of a tailor shop, he was powerfully motivated to help support the family of ten. At ten years, he'd saved enough to buy a goat and cart to deliver groceries for Mrs. Healy's Market. Before long, he had rented space there to sell among other products, Harding's Ice Cream.

At eighteen, in 1910, he bought a horse and wagon and started his own business selling door to door a variety of Dairy Products.

No 9 to 5 mentality operated in 1910. Harry began at 4:00 a.m. and worked until 6:00-7:00 p.m., coming home so exhausted that his older brother Morris had to pull his boots off for him.

Among the 175 to 200 houses he served each day, one belonged to J.H. Millard, the President of Omaha National Bank. Millard took careful note of this wiry, hard working kid and started teaching him an abbreviated form of an M.B.A. at his kitchen table.

By 1918, at 26, he had a loan from the Omaha National Bank, training from the President of the bank and opened the Dairy Department of Central Market begun by his lifetime friends and neighbors, the Kulakofskys in downtown Omaha.

In 1916, he married Omaha born Elizabeth Castleman, the apple of his eye for the next 71 years. They bore two daughters, Frances and Jean who later moved East.

Subsequently, he opened his own warehouse on Howard Street, Omaha's Wholesale area, now the Old Market. Soon he had a fleet of delivery trucks selling in surrounding states, then later a Lincoln warehouse. He began by selling grocery stores, then expanded to restaurants, hotels, state facilities and educational institutions. He sold himself to the Holders of national brand products and earned the right to have the mid-states exclusive.

This dynamo didn't stop until he was 75 and then continued to travel with his Elizabeth, remaining the close family man he had always been.

Harry had an unswerving idea of what was right and wrong and lived by it, was a guide to others as Millard had been to him, cared for community and the lives that touched him with warmth, depth, sincerity, honesty and humor.

Though we've had him for these 95 years, he's sorely missed as is all he has stood for."



Harry & Elizabeth Rubenstein

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Donor Cards and Morris C. Fellman Memorial Cards are the way to go when you want to make a contribution in honor of, in memory of, or to remember someone special. It's easy—just call Dorothy Kaplan, 330-0747 or call the NJHS office (or send a check to the office, 333 S. 132nd Street, Omaha, Nebraska, 6854). The minimum on the Donor Cards is \$5.00 each and the minimum on the Fellman Memorial Cards is \$3.00 each. Ask about our special price for a group of the cards so you can send them out yourself. Your purchase of these cards and your remembrance of someone special helps us maintain many projects, preserve and publish material dealing with the life of Jews in Nebraska and Council Bluffs, Iowa.

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Special Contribution from Mary Fellman

Artifacts Sought for Holocaust Memorial Museum.....

If you have any original artifacts, documents, letters, diaries, original works of art, photographs and so on, created in the camps, in ghettos or in hiding, please request a copy of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum "Request for Artifacts" by writing to the Curator, 2000 L Street, N.W., Suite 717, Washington, DC 20036 or call 202/861/0407. The material they seek might forewarn of Nazi terror, document the crime, depict life in the ghettos, pertain to armed and spiritual resistance, to rescue and to establishing life anew and remembering the Holocaust.

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Shown here is Dan Gordman, president of Beth Israel, presenting a "Citation of Distinguished Merit" to guest honoree Eddie Cantor at a congregational dinner of celebration in 1959. If you have any pictures of special events in Omaha, Lincoln or Council Bluffs and wish to share them with us, please bring them in or call us and we will arrange to pick them up. We are grateful to Dan Gordman for sharing this "memory" with us!

Visitors in Town?

Bring your relatives or friends who visit you this summer to the Jewish Community Center to see our wonderful exhibits..... "The Jewish People of Nebraska in 1948"....."100 Years of Jewish Organizational Life in Nebraska" and "Jewish Landmarks" in the "Halls of History" at the JCC along with the permanent exhibit by the National Council of Jewish Women on "Our Story". And drop in at the NJHS office while you are in the building to see how our archives are growing and meet our staff members. We're looking forward to seeing you!

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